



COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES, VETERANS, CULTURE, AND RECREATION

Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Chair

Councilor Alisa F. Klein

Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra

MEETING MINUTES

Monday October 20, 2014

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street

Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building, Northampton, MA

***Activate NCTV Camera to Record Meeting**

1. Members present/absent: *Councilor LaBarge, Councilor Klein, Councilor Sciarra were all present.*
2. Meeting Called to Order: *At 4:00 pm Councilor LaBarge called the meeting to order.*
3. Announcement of Audio/Video Recording of the Meeting: *Councilor LaBarge announced that the meeting would be video and audio taped.*
4. Approval of Minutes of July 21, 2014 and September 15, 2014 Public Hearing on the Resolution - Vibrant Sidewalks: *Councilor Klein moved to approve the meeting minutes of the July 21, 2014 Comm. On Social Services, Veterans, Culture and Recreation and the meeting minutes of Sept. 15, 2014 Public Hearing on the Vibrant Sidewalk Resolution; Councilor Sciarra seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.*
5. 4:05 p.m. – Joanne Campbell, Executive Director Valley Community Development Corporation.
Donna Cabana, Director, Valley CDC Homeownership Program
My Nyguen, Valley CDC, Development Specialist
Peg Keller, Housing and Community Development Planner

The housing referral system is a closed referral system. Notification is sent to agencies such as DMH, Service Net, and Veteran's Services. Valley Community Development Corporation makes sure that the person who is selected to live in a unit is receiving services. This ensures that as issues arise for individuals, they get the necessary support that they need.

At Village Hill, of the 53 units available, 35 has rent subsidy attached; The rest of 100 units are family housing. A professional management company does the income qualification; screening of candidates, handling of financial accounting; and handling of maintenance of the buildings.

6. Public Comment: *None*
7. 4:55 p.m. – City Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Chair will speak about the agenda for the Month of November, including The Resolution for Vibrant Sidewalks and how the committee wants to go forward with it.
 - *In November, Councilor LaBarge indicated that she planned to continue the discussion regarding Vibrant Sidewalks amongst the Committee members. She would like to incorporate suggestions made at the Public Hearing in the December meeting. Councilor Klein suggested*

an entire meeting be dedicated to review the Resolution and the group agreed that this could happen. Bill Newman had some really good suggestions regarding Vibrant Sidewalks; Councilor LaBarge would like to see his input added to the Resolution.

- *In November, Service Net is coming in as well as Penny Burke from the Northampton Center for the Arts. The remainder of the Committee meeting will focus on the Resolution for Vibrant Sidewalks*

8. 5:00 p.m. – Lynn Wallace, Chair, Northampton Housing Partnership
Peg Keller, Housing and Community Development Planner
Lynn will speak on Affordable Housing/ and Housing Plan Implementation Up-date

Lynn Wallace gave an update of the implementation phase of the housing plan that was done. Their first goal was to create new housing at a variety of income levels. The implementation phase included the following:

1. *Holding Developer Forums to look at what properties was available downtown.*
2. *"Housing First" Training-a philosophy was conducted.*
3. *Capitalizing housing trust fund—CPC money is eligible.*
4. *Formalizing housing review process.*
5. *Establishing a regional committee on affirmative and fair housing.*
6. *Establish zoning relations that are inclusionary.*
7. *Define mixed-used developments with housing units on the first floor*
 - *Soldier On*
 - *Christopher Heights: 83 units—43 will be affordable*
 - *Valley CDC: 60 units*
 - *SRO on Pleasant Street*
 - *Grove Street Inn*

The philosophy includes a real effort to work to end homelessness. CPC will provide funding of \$195,000 for 3 year contract to hire someone to work with people who may be at risk for eviction; 93% of people being evicted from affordable housing is due to not having the ability to pay. 200 units of affordable housing will be introduced in Northampton in the next year or so.

9. Public Comment-None

10. 5:30 p.m. – Steven James Connor, Director Central Hampshire Veteran's Services.
Steve will give a brief update on their caseload numbers and budget numbers, and projections for the remainder of the year

Tom Geryk from the Veteran's services office provided the Committee with information about the Department of Veteran 's Services. The agency serves approx. 200 people in Northampton, Goshen, Williamsburg, Chesterfield, and Middlefield. Mr. Geryk provided a summary of the department's budget, which includes line items for Office Equipment, Training and Seminars, Telephone, Office Supplies, Travel, Dues & Memberships, Medical & Dental Insurance, Veterans Benefits, Burial Benefits, Ceremonial Expenses, Food, Medical and "Other".

11. 5:30 p.m. – Brad Levay -- President Northampton Veterans Council --president of the Veteran's Council of Northampton.

Mr. Levay, President and Tim Daly-Vice President of the Veteran's Council or Northampton reported on activities of the Council. To date they have participated in the following:

- *St. Patrick's Day Parade*
- *Flag Day Retirement sponsored by WWII club-burned approx. 200 flags (a Scout from troop 103 used this as part of Eagle Scout credentials)*
- *Memorial Day Parade*
- *Leeds Memorial*
- *Flag Day*
- *Pulaski Day*

Looking Ahead, the Veteran's Council will be participating in the Veteran's Day Salute Breakfast being held Nov. 8th. The speaker will be the new director at the Veteran's Administration. Additionally, the 2014 Veteran's Day parade will be held on Nov. 11th beginning at 11:00am.

12. NEW BUSINESS – *Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed-NONE*

13. ADJOURN: At 5:56 pm Councilor Sciarra motioned to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Klein seconded; the motion passed on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.,

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2014 at 4:00 pm.

Contact:
Pamela L. Powers
Clerk to the City Council
413-587-1210
ppowers@northamptonma.gov